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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/459,189	12/10/1999	Tim Haynes	4173/2	9761

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EXAMINER

KAPADIA, MILAN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 06/10/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/459,189

Applicant(s)

HAYNES ET AL.

Examiner

Milan S Kapadia

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant

1. This communication is in response to the application filed 10 December 1999. Claims 1-25 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danford-Klein et al. (6,041,318) in view of U-Haul's website ("www.U-Haul.com," January 25, 1998).

(A) As per claim 1, Danford-Klein discloses an object oriented rating system and method comprising :

a server which processes user inputs from a user's computer over a communications network and provides information responsive thereto to the user's computer over the communications network from which a service contract is generated and confirmed (Danford-Klein; fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 33-42), the server comprising:

a memory (Danford-Klein; col. 6, lines 3-4) in which is stored a plurality of data sets relating to (a) trucks which can be rented and associated rental prices for the trucks (Danford-Klein; Table 1(see col. 19, lines 20-25) and col. 14, lines 5-9), (c) towing accessories and associated rental prices for the towing accessories (Danford-Klein; Table 1(see col. 19, lines 27-37) and col. 14, lines 5-9), and

programming responsive to user inputs to access the memory and provide data from respective data sets to user computer over the communications network. (Danford-Klein; col. 4, lines 33-42 and col. 6, lines 3-4).

Danford-Klein fails to expressly disclose:

(b) towing accessories that can be rented and towed vehicles with which the towing accessories can be used,

(d) expertise-based guidance relating to trucks, and

(e) expertise-based guidance relating to towing accessories

U-Haul discloses a website which teaches towing accessories that can be rented and towed vehicles with which towing accessories can be used (U-Haul; pages 7 and 8) and expertise-based guidance relating to trucks and accessories (U-Haul; pages 7, 12, and 13). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand Danford-Klein's system to include towed accessories that can be rented and towed vehicles with which towing accessories can be used and expertise-based guidance relating to trucks and accessories as disclosed by U-Haul

Art Unit: 3626

with the motivation of helping customers plan their own do-it yourself move (U-Haul; page 18).

(B) Claim 2 differs from claim 1 by reciting the limitation "programming responsive to a user input identifying a vehicle to be towed which accesses the memory and provides to the user computer over the communications network data indicating availability or not of a towed accessory for the identified vehicle to be towed in accordance with the data set."

Danford-Klein and U-Haul collectively fail to teach this limitation. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand the collective system taught by Danford-Klein and U-Haul with programming to indicate the availability or not of a towed accessory for the identified towed vehicle with the motivation of preventing the user from making an order for an accessory that is not available for the identified vehicle.

(C) As per claim 3, Danford-Klein discloses memory in which is stored a data set relating to vehicle pick-up and drop-off locations (Danford-Klein; col. 13, line 52-col. 14, line 4; The examiner interprets "origin/destination" as pick-up and drop-off locations.")

Danford-Klein fails to expressly disclose programming responsive to a user input identifying a geographical location in which the vehicle is to be picked up and a geographical location in which the vehicle is to be dropped off which accesses the memory and provides to the user computer over the communications network data

indicating at least two locations closest to the geographic location input for pick-up and at least two locations nearest to the geographic location input for drop-off. U-Haul discloses a website which teaches a U-haul location finder that finds U-Haul locations closest to an address inputted by the user (U-Haul; page 9). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand Danford-Klein's system to include a location finder as disclosed by U-Haul with the motivation of helping customers plan their own do-it yourself move (U-Haul; page 18).

(D) As per claim 4, Danford-Klein fails to expressly disclose the communications network as the Internet and the programming provides the data to the user computer in the context of one or more web pages. U-Haul discloses a website for truck renting to be used over the Internet and providing data to user computer in the context of web pages (U-Haul; page 3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand Danford-Klein's system to include the use of the Internet and providing to customers the data in the context of web pages as disclosed by U-Haul with the motivation of helping customers plan their own do-it yourself move (U-Haul; page 18).

(E) As per claim 5, Danford-Klein discloses a payment-processing subsystem for establishing payment arrangements with the user in response to user inputs providing payment data communicated to the server over the communications network.

Danford-Klein; col. 4, lines 35-42; the examiner interprets "cause payment for such shipment" as a "payment-processing subsystem.")

(F) As per claim 6, Danford-Klein discloses the memory stores a data set relating to discounts available to qualified users, and wherein the server, responsive to user inputs providing data relating to discount eligibility, provides a quote for rental of a selected truck including a discount corresponding to the user inputted discount eligibility data (Danford-Klein; col. 14, lines 26-43).

(G) As per claim 7, Danford-Klein discloses the server, responsive to user inputs corresponding to truck selection (Danford-Klein; Table 1), pick-up and drop-off locations (Danford-Klein; col. 13, lines 52-54), and a pickup date (Danford-Klein; col. 15, lines 38-43; The examiner interprets "shipping date" as "pick-up date"), generates a service contract data set, including a quote for the truck rental, associated with the user to be provided to the user's computer over the communications network (Danford-Klein; col. 4, lines 35-43; the examiner interprets "generate an order for such a shipment" as "generates a service contract" and interprets "generate a bill for such shipment" as "including a quote for truck rental.")

(H) As per claim 8, Danford-Klein discloses the user inputs include a selection of moving accessories; and wherein the server generates the service contract data set associated with the user and including the costs for the accessories in the quote for the

Art Unit: 3626

truck rental. (Danford-Klein; Table 1 and col. 14, lines 5-9; Note output of rating server is returned as quote to client (Danford-Klein; col. 4, lines 35-43)).

(I) As per claim 12, Danford-Klein fails to expressly disclose a web page including data fields providing all information which the system provides to a user information necessary for a service contract in response either to user input data or data available from the system in which all also data fields may be modified on the web page by the user without having to revert to another web page. U-Haul discloses a website with a rate request form where user can enter all data from one web page (U-Haul; pages 5-7). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand Danford-Klein's system to include the use a single web page for user input as disclosed by U-Haul with the motivation of helping customers plan their own do-it yourself move (U-Haul; page 18).

(J) Claims 13 and 14 repeat features previously addressed in the rejections of claims 1 and 2 and are therefore rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 2, and incorporated herein.

(K) Claim 15 repeat features previously addressed in the rejection of claim 3 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 3, and incorporated herein.

(L) Claim 16 repeat features previously addressed in the rejection of claim 12 and is

therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 12, and incorporated herein.

(M) Claim 17 repeat features previously addressed in the rejections of claims 1-4 and 12 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claims 1-4 and 12, and incorporated herein.

(N) As per claim 18, Danford-Klein and U-Haul collectively fail to expressly disclose:
receiving user-input selections of equipment including a selection of a truck for rental and a selection of a vehicle type for towing by the selected truck;
accessing the vehicle towing table to determine if the selected vehicle is capable of being towed by the selected truck; and
generating a towing advice indication for display to the user whether the selected truck is appropriate for towing the selected vehicle.

However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand the collective system taught by Danford-Klein and U-Haul to access a vehicle towing table to determine if the selected vehicle is capable of being towed by the selected truck and generating a towing advice indication for display to the user whether the selected truck is appropriate for towing the selected vehicle, with the motivation of preventing the user from selecting a truck incapable of towing desired vehicle.

(O) Claim 19 differs from claim 3 by reciting the limitation "includes an

affiliate table of truck-rental affiliates including geographic locations and a table storing travel directions to affiliates,” in the preamble. Danford-Klein and U-Haul collectively fail to expressly disclose this limitation. However, this feature is old and well known in the art as evidenced by Danford-Klein’s teachings with regards to storing rate information in tables (Danford-Klein; col. 15, lines 59-64). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the collective system Danford-Klein and U-Haul to include a table for storing truck-rental affiliates including geographic locations and travel directions to affiliates with the motivation of improving storage requirements and processing speed (Danford-Klein; col. 3, lines 28-38).

(P) Claim 20 repeat features previously addressed in the rejection of claim 5 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 5, and incorporated herein.

(Q) Claim 22 repeat features previously addressed in the rejection of claim 6 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 6, and incorporated herein.

(R) Claim 23 repeat features previously addressed in the rejection of claim 7 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 7, and incorporated herein.

(S) Claim 24 repeat features previously addressed in the rejection of claim 8 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 8, and incorporated herein.

4. Claims 9, 10, 11, 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Danford-Klein (6,041,318) and U-Haul's website ("www.U-Haul.com," January 25, 1998) as applied to the claims 7, 20 and 22 above and further in view of Brandt et al. (6,125,384).

(A) As per claim 9, Danford-Klein and U-Haul collectively fail to expressly disclose the user inputs include a reservation confirmation command and wherein the server, responsive to the reservation confirmation command, generates a confirmation message to be provided to the user's computer through the communications interface. However, this feature is old and well known in the art, as evidenced by Brandt. Brandt discloses a car rental system over the Internet where the user submits a rental request (Brandt; col. 15, lines 42-44; the examiner interprets "submits" as a "reservation confirmation command") and the server sends a reservation confirmation to the client (Brandt; col. 19, lines 24-27). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand the collective system taught by Danford-Klein and U-Haul with Brandt's teaching with regard confirmation requests and responses with the motivation of providing transaction support procedures for accessing software applications over the WWW (Brandt; col. 3, lines 17-24).

(B) Claim 10 differs from claims 1-9 by reciting the limitation "a web server for providing a plurality of web pages accessible through the Internet and for processing user inputs received through the Internet from a user's computer operating an Internet

browser displaying the plurality of web pages, at least one web page having at least one input field for receiving the user inputs; and a backend server operatively connected to the web server and responsive to the user inputs."

Danford-Klein and U-Haul collectively fail to teach this limitation. However, Brandt discloses a car rental system where the client uses a web browser to make a reservation from a web server operatively connected to a backend server that sends a reservation confirmation to the web client (Brandt; fig. 1 and col. 19, lines 24-47). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand the collective system taught by Danford-Klein and U-Haul with Brandt's teaching with regarding an Internet based reservation system with the motivation of allowing a user of the web browser to more easily access software applications over the WWW (Brandt; col. 3, lines 25-26).

(C) As per claim 11, Danford-Klein and U-Haul collectively fail to expressly disclose the at least one program module, responsive to modifications of the user inputs prior to confirmation of the reservation, modifies the reservation information. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand the collective system taught by Danford-Klein and U-Haul with programming to modify reservation information responsive to modifications by the user prior to confirmation of the reservation with the motivation of allowing user to make changes to request before confirming the reservation.

(D) As per claim 21, Danford-Klein and U-Haul collectively fail to expressly disclose the user inputs include credit card information. However, this feature is old and well known in the art, as evidenced by Brandt. Brandt discloses a car rental system over the Internet where the user can input credit card information (Brandt; col. 2, lines 16-33. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to expand the collective system taught by Danford-Klein and U-Haul with Brandt's teaching with regard to user inputting credit card information with the motivation of providing transaction support procedures for accessing software applications over the WWW (Brandt; col. 3, lines 17-24).

(E) Claim 25 repeat features previously addressed in the rejection of claim 9 and is therefore rejected for the same reasons as claim 9, and incorporated herein.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited but not applied art teaches an automobile rental system (3,665,397); an on-line reservation system ("There's A Fresh New Look at Budget: www.drivebudget.com," PRNewswire, September 23, 1998); and a website that provides access to ancillary relocation services such as truck rental ("Cendant's Real Estate Subsidiaries Create On-line Cross-Marketing Alliance With Rent Net; Coldwell Banker, Century 21 and ERA Join Forces with Sister Company, Rent Net," Business Wire, May 7, 1998);

Art Unit: 3626


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milan S Kapadia whose telephone number is 703-305-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 703-305-9588. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

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May 31, 2002


JOSEPH THOMAS
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